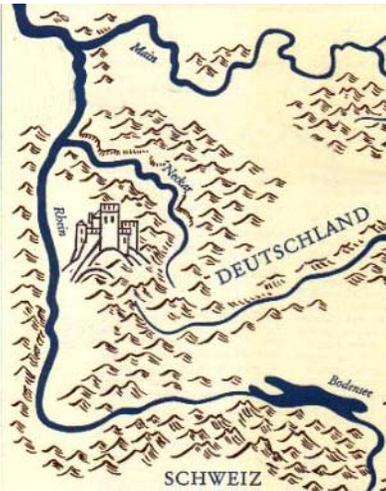




RHEINGOLD DISTRICT

TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL-BSA



The Rheingold District reaches from Switzerland in the south to Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Dexheim in the north to Stuttgart in the east. The Rhein, a destination for travelers from all parts of the world, flows through this area. It starts high in the mountains of Switzerland about 75 miles east of Kandersteg. It rests for a while in the Bodensee, and then winds its way past Zurich. It picks up water from the Aare River which comes down from Bern. After Basel, it enters a broad valley and flows past Karlsruhe. To the east the Neckar is passing through Stuttgart on its own way north. The Neckar runs through Heidelberg and meets the Rhein at Mannheim. As it continues north, the Rhein passes near Darmstadt and Dexheim before meeting the Main near Wiesbaden and Mainz. These great rivers combine to make the Rhein into the single most influential transportation and cultural feature of the area. The

early Germanic tribes and the Romans traveled the Rhein in boats, built towns that became mighty cities, and traded on its banks. The Rhein Valley's long history has also produced the stuff of legends. One of those legends, the Rheingold story, is an ancient Viking tale passed to the Germans. It is the story of magical gold belonging to the Maidens of the Rhein and hidden on the bottom of the river. The legend said that a ring made from this gold would be of such great power that its owner would surely rule the world. Richard Wagner was greatly taken by the legend and in 1869 wrote an Opera for King Ludwig II called the "The Ring of the Nibelung". The opera was so popular that it remains in production to this day. Countless streets in the Rhein Valley are named for the Nibelungen, the dwarves who forged the ring. In 1928, a high speed passenger train called the Rheingold Express was inaugurated. The Rheingold Express traveled from the Hook of Holland past Wiesbaden, Mannheim, and Karlsruhe on its way to Basel. Like the Rhein and the Express, our district connects far-flung American communities from Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, and Dexheim to Basel, Zurich and Bern, providing a strong American Scouting experience with an international flavor that is unsurpassed anywhere. As in the legend, we Scouters in the Rheingold District also possess a treasure. Unlike the Rhein Maidens, our treasure does not lie on the bottom of the river. The treasure is in the Scouts and Scouters of our district. It is our mission to support and train our unit leaders as they forge our Scouts, our "Rheingold," into the leaders of tomorrow.



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As the Rhein moves through this area, it collects water from the Neckar and the Main and countless other smaller streams. People have lived and traded on the Rhein and its tributaries since prehistoric times. In recognition of this unique geographic area and its history, the Rheingold District will form an Order of the Arrow chapter. The new

chapter will assume the name Wah Sha She Chapter, meaning "The Water People" in the language of the Osage.